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## **Earth Day Event at Trenton Village Theatre to Highlight New Great Lakes Documentary**

TRENTON, MICH. – This Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, 2014 at 7 PM, the City of Trenton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center will host a free screening of the Great Lakes documentary *Freshwater Seas: The Great Lakes* at the Trenton Village Theatre (2447 West Jefferson Avenue, Trenton, MI 48183). The film tells the story of the Great Lakes and the region surrounding them, charting the time from their formation nearly 15,000 years ago and describing their key role in the economic and industrial development of the region and the world. Renowned filmmaker Lindsey Haskin will be present at the screening and available to answer questions from the audience during a meet and greet session following the film.

Known as “America’s fourth coast,” the Great Lakes are home to more than 3,500 species of plants and animals, including one-fifth of all North American fish species. Deposits of iron ore, coal, limestone, and other natural resources are extensive in the region surrounding the lakes whose waterways boast critical connections that link shipping networks from the Atlantic Ocean, down the Mississippi River, to the Gulf of Mexico.

*Freshwater Seas: The Great Lakes*, a production of Detroit Public Television, documents the challenges facing the five connected freshwater bodies that form the Great Lakes. Increasing pressures from the growing human population and water shortages from across the globe are placing more and more stress on these freshwater assets. Filmed over a two-year period on location on all five of the Great Lakes, in the eight states that touch them and in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the film examines the critical role our Freshwater Seas are playing in today’s global political and economic issues. From industrial and agricultural pollution and compromised water quality, to global climate change and threats of water diversions, these issues and others affecting one of Earth’s most awe-inspiring treasures are explored through Director Haskin’s expert lens.

Haskin, a Michigan native who has worked in film production for over 30 years and produced films on a range of topics including environmental issues, defense technologies, finance, energy, medicine, and industry hopes to use this film, “to increase understanding of the Great Lakes and

the issues confronting the Great Lakes basin – environmental, economic, and social – to make people who live in the region better informed citizens and to raise the profile of the Great Lakes for an international audience.”

*Freshwater Seas: The Great Lakes* was produced by Detroit Public Television in partnership with Michigan Sea Grant and with support from Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Great Lakes Alliance of Caterpillar Dealers, and the Wege Foundation. Learn more about the film at [www.freshwaterseas.org](http://www.freshwaterseas.org).

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Trenton Village Theatre is located in downtown Trenton, at 2447 West Jefferson Avenue. The event is sponsored by the City of Trenton, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, and the Downriver Youth Performing Arts Center and is *FREE* of charge. Doors open to the public at 6:30pm.

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